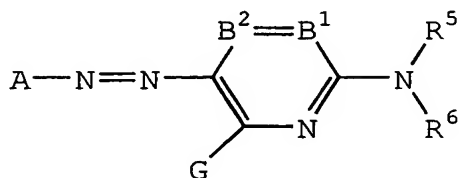


# CLAIMS

[1] An ink composition comprising at least water, at least one member selected from a compound represented by formula (1) shown below and a salt thereof, and at least one member selected from an aromatic compound having a carboxyl group and a salt thereof:

Formula (1):

[Chem. 1]



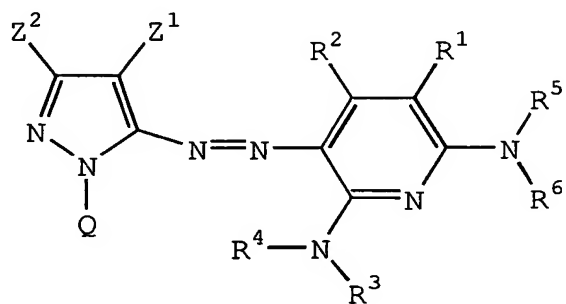
wherein A represents a residue of a 5-membered heterocyclic diazo component A-NH<sub>2</sub>; B<sup>1</sup> and B<sup>2</sup> each represents -CR<sup>1</sup>= or -CR<sup>2</sup>=, or either one of B<sup>1</sup> and B<sup>2</sup> represents a nitrogen atom and the other represents -CR<sup>1</sup>= or -CR<sup>2</sup>=; R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group or a sulfamoyl group, and each group may further have a substituent; G, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group,

an aryloxy carbonyl group, an acyl group, a hydroxy group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a silyloxy group, an acyloxy group, a carbamoyloxy group, a heterocyclic oxy group, an alkoxycarbonyloxy group, an aryloxy carbonyloxy group, an amino group substituted by an alkyl, aryl or heterocyclic group, an acylamino group, a ureido group, a sulfamoylamino group, an alkoxycarbonylamino group, an aryloxy carbonylamino group, an alkylsulfonylamino group, an arylsulfonylamino group, a nitro group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group, an alkylsulfinyl group, an arylsulfinyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a sulfo group or a heterocyclic thio group, and each group may be further substituted; and  $R^1$  and  $R^5$ , or  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  may combine to form a 5- or 6-membered ring.

[2] The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said compound represented by formula (1) or a salt thereof is a compound represented by the following formula (2) or a salt thereof:

Formula (2):

[Chem. 2]



wherein  $Z^1$  represents an electron-withdrawing group having a Hammett's substituent constant  $\sigma_p$  value of 0.20 or more;  $Z^2$  represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group or a heterocyclic group;  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  have the same meanings as in formula (1);  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, a sulfonyl group or a sulfamoyl group; Q represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group or a heterocyclic group; and the groups represented by  $Z^1$ ,  $Z^2$ ,  $R^1$  to  $R^6$  and Q may each further have a substituent.

[3] The ink composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the content ratio of said at least one member selected from a compound represented by formula (1) and a salt thereof and said at least one member selected from an aromatic compound having a carboxyl group and a salt thereof is from 4:1 to 1:10 in terms of weight ratio of respective total amounts.

[4] The ink composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said aromatic compound having a carboxyl group or a salt thereof is a compound having a naphthalene skeleton or a salt thereof.

[5] The ink composition as claimed in claim 4, wherein said compound having a naphthalene skeleton or a salt thereof is a compound having a carboxyl group at its 2-position or a salt thereof.

[6] The ink composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said compound having a carboxyl group at its 2-position and having a naphthalene skeleton or a salt thereof is a 2-naphthoic acid, a 3-hydroxy-2-naphthoic acid, a 6-hydroxy-2-naphthoic acid, a 6-methoxy-2-naphthoic acid, or a salt thereof.

[7] The ink composition as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein said salt of the aromatic compound having a carboxyl group is a lithium salt.

[8] The ink composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, which is used in an inkjet recording method.

[9] The ink composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said inkjet recording method is a recording method using an inkjet head which forms an ink droplet by mechanical deformation of an electrostrictive element.

[10] An inkjet recording method comprising ejecting a liquid droplet of an ink composition, and attaching said liquid droplet onto a recording medium, thereby performing the recording, wherein the ink composition claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 is used as the ink composition.

[11] Recorded matter which is recorded with the ink composition claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 or by the recording method claimed in claim 10.